

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (month / year): March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Address: 504 Whipple Road

Historic Name: French House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: c1860

Source: Historic Maps & Assessors Records

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Clapboards & Decorative Shingles

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

North ell addition (early 20th century-pre 1948)

Front Porch (1948-1972)

Eastern addition to the north ell (1948-1972)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.24 Acres

Setting: Located in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20th century as a suburban residential area.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

Tewksbury

504 Whipple Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house at **504 Whipple Road** is a one-and-a-half story side hall L-shaped dwelling whose form has been substantially altered by additions. The front gable roof is sheathed asphalt shingles; a brick chimney protrudes from the southern slope of the roof. An ell extends from either side of the main form. A short one-and-a-half story ell connects the house to the two-and-a-half story barn at the south of the house. A porch, now infilled, extends across the full width of the main form and the southern ell to the barn. A second ell extends three bays to the north and has a side gable roof. The walls are clad with clapboards on the lower portion of the house and decorative shingles above. Windows includes 2/2 wood sash windows, 6/6 replacement sash windows, multi-paned casements, and sliding glass doors on the porch. The main entrance is through a glass door on the porch.

The connected barn, like the house is clad with decorative shingles above clapboards. The barn is accessed through a sliding wood door located asymmetrically on the left side of the gable front. Directly centered above the door is a sliding hayloft door. Windows in the barn include 6/6 replacement sash windows, a semi-circular window, and a single multi-pane sash window with diagonal panes.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In 1852 there was no dwelling opposite Ebenezer B French's farm at 507 Whipple Road (TEW.XXX). Assessor's records indicate 504 Whipple Road was built c. 1860. The house has been significantly altered by additions and it is difficult to determine a period of construction from the style. In 1875 Historic maps indicate that the dwelling was owned by the French family. Additional deed research would be necessary to determine owners prior to Patrick Gleason and which members of the French family may have built this dwelling.

The French family first settled in Tewksbury in the early 1700s and members of the family owned extensive amounts of land in the vicinity of French, Astle, Whipple and North Billerica roads. Members of the French family and their homes include: Edmund French (TEW.39) lived at 98 North Billerica Road, 307 Astle Street, Joshua F French (TEW. XXX) at 307 Astle Street, Ebenezer French (TEW.XXX) at 507 Whipple Road, and Jesse French (TEW.XXX) at 499 Whipple Road

By 1880 the house was occupied by Cyrus Walter Parsons and his wife Jennie. The Parsons married in 1876. C Walter Parsons was a milkman operating a dairy farm on 55 acres with 32 cows, a bull, and nine horses in 1890. By 1901, the Parsons family had moved to a farm on what is now North Billerica Road near the Billerica Town Line.
C Walter Parsons milkman b1856 wife Jennie

Additional owners include: Patrick Gleason (c1897); Henry H Wilson, a farmer, and his family (1897-1922) 673/144; Jesse J French (1922-1947) 1080/27; Douglas & Muriel MacDonald, he was a machine erector in the 1950s and a salesman c1965; Warren Foster, an artist & Joan Foster, a teacher (1972-2001); and Thomas Girad (2001-2009).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.
Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.
Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

Tewksbury 504 Whipple Road

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220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
 - Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
 - Altas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
 - List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
 - Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
 - North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.
 - _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
 - Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.